

FIRMNESS NEEDED

THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH.

SHANGHAI COMMENT.

The public of Hongkong are to be congratulated upon the excellent manner in which they have replied to the apparent apathy of the Home Government in regard to the recent election of the so-called National Government at Canton, says the "Shanghai Mercury." At the

...and certain resolutions were passed, of which, we feel sure, cannot fail to impress the Home Government and the Britishers resident in the Far East are sick and tired of this dilatory policy. For our part we have repeatedly urged the Home Government to accept the challenge: laid down last week, and we are quite at a loss to understand why nothing has been done in the matter. The recent action of the Canton Government was nothing short of a declaration of war and it was obviously Britain's duty to accept the



11

ROALD AMUNDSEN. APR.

Roald Amundsen, noted explorer, has recently electrified the entire world; once when he disappeared after starting a polar flight, and again when the news flashed out that he was safe, twenty-eight days after.

challenge. Canton at the present time is undergoing a veritable reign of terror" and by intervention, Great Britain would render a great service to the whole people of South China. Most people will agree with the residents of the colony who were unanimously of opinion that British intervention was the only effective method of restoring communication and trade.

between Hongkong, Canton and South of China, and of preventing the economic destruction of Hongkong and of British interests in South China. By adopting this anti-foreign attitude the so-called government of Canton is doing far more harm to the people of China than to the British, and the sooner Great Britain adopts a strong and consistent policy in the matter, the better

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Hongkong, Tuesday, September 1, 1925.

BEWILDERING.

There is still to be written the book that will faithfully portray Chinese characteristics. The old books have pictured a frugal race—in the main courteous, industrious, cultured, peaceable, with a touch of the inscrutable that added piquancy. This picture dates; that is to say it seems to belong to another era, to a time probably before the revolution, when the Manchus reigned, and pig-tails were a badge of serfdom to be snipped off at a moment's notice. Since then there has been an awakening of a sort. A giant has arisen out of a long-age sleep, but his steps suggest that the awakening has been too sudden. Samson's shorn locks demonstrated his weakness. So far China's shorn pig-tails suggest that it is easier to lop off. The old style of head dress meant at least cool heads; the present has tended to ex-hibitions of hot-headedness which the most ardent friends and admirers deplore. It suggests a state of bewilderment which the prosaic foreigner may

be pardoned for failing to understand. The trend of Chinese politics since the revolution, has been bewildering. The revolution which should have led to unity, led to disintegration. Whatever corruption existed before was exceeded by those engaged in the selfish task of feathering their own nests. Each province of the republic bears witness to a regrettable feature of Chinese official life. Trite maxims, glibly uttered, disappeared when money came into view. The foreigner had sent his missionaries, his medical men, and his educationists, to show the way. His own standard of conduct approximated as near the golden rule as it is possible to get in competitive days, and if example is better than precept, he had supplied it. The bewildered foreigner is probably open to conviction. If he is to be convicted of sin, he would like the evidence. So far there is none. From a bewildering sense of the strange flights of Chinese politics, he comes to the knowledge of warring bands of militarists, and those periods of boycotts and hates levelled at "certain foreign nations." In South China—in Hongkong—the sense of bewilderment is as evident as it is elsewhere. The foreigner wonders what the real cause of the trouble is: if it is to be laid at the door of Russian Bolsheviks, or those Chinese extremists who have imbibed the vices of unreason and hatred—refused to regard the lesson of history, and are as far from the standards set up by the old guard of Chinese as it is possible to be. Simple morality is absent. The Canton directors state they are not responsible for the embargo on shipping recently issued from their city. It is true—no doubt. But they are silent on the fact that a "law" issued by a labour body has Government sanction behind it. It is that it is allowed to operate with out Government protest.

RUBBER AND COTTON.

Although not vitally affected by changes in the price of rubber, Hongkong, it may be affirmed with confidence, begrudges the Straits and Ceylon not one whit the prospects of prosperity that are now held out for them by reason of the continued demand for rubber even at considerably enhanced prices. There are many here, of course, whose interest in the boom is not purely unselfish and such have doubtless been perturbed as to the effects of America's threat (cabled recently) that the Government might adopt reprisals for the continued policy of restriction by restricting the output of cotton. As a very large buyer of rubber, America has been considerably affected by a policy which by restricting the export of rubber on British plantations has forced up the price; but her policy of opposition to it right from its inception was surely short-sighted in view of the fact that estates who were before restriction producing at a loss would eventually have had to go out of cultivation if some such measure had not been introduced. As, however, the Stevenson scheme of restriction provides for increases in price fetched by rubber, a release of 10 per cent. on what was already being exported was put into effect from August 1. This, America claims, is not sufficient in view of the fact that (to quote the Rubber Association of America) "there are practically no stocks of raw rubber in America at the present time." Allegations have been made that the London market price has been manipulated in order that it should be kept just below the figure which would ensure a further release, but even if there is something in this (and no definite proof has been forthcoming) the sharp practice would only refer to speculators whose position might temporarily be disturbed by a special release. The assurance of the experts is that no such release would affect the earnings of the plantation companies or the value of rubber shares and the only objection to immediate full production from the planter's point of view appears to be that on many estates a sufficient labour force has not yet been built up, and that the training of additional tappers takes time. In the meantime, according to an erstwhile Hongkong broker who has removed his sphere of activities to Singapore, "there is any amount of local confidence here" and (something a little more solid and comforting) "7,000 cars on the island as outward evidence of prosperity if any is needed."

THEY SAY THAT—

A clean pigsty is safer than a dirty palace.—Sir Henry Gauvain.

The man who is wrapped up in himself makes a very small parcel.—Dr. Charles Porter.

The material we are turning out of the schools is too good for £1 a week City jobs.—Mr. Spikes.

Alcohol helps man, not to face, but temporarily to forget their worries.—Mr. H. G. Chancellor.

Piccadilly is the Scotsman's cinema and the most vulgar place in Great Britain.—Architect at a Newcastle conference.

Youth of England get their ideas of America largely from the cinema. Professor S. E. Morison.

Wealth in Australia is probably more evenly distributed than in any other country in the world.—Sir Arthur Cocks.

Woman is filled with supreme contempt for man's ignorance and helplessness in the presence of a baby.—Mr. A. J. Martin.

The world is threatened with the total loss of some of the most beautiful of nature's creations by sportsmen.—Mr. F. R. Rowley.

The fact that 75 per cent. of women wage earners are not enfranchised should be cause for serious concern.—Miss Ellen Wilkinson, M.P.

The three things I like best in London are the gardens and parks, the politeness of taxidrivers, and the wonderful shop windows.—Mr. W. Gaston (U.S.A.).

Father: "Did you have the car out last night, Jack?"

Jack: "Yes, old thing; took some of the boys for a run."

Father: "Well, I wish they wouldn't leave their powder-ruffs lying about!"

SHREDS AND PATCHES.

WOMEN'S DRESS. Some men rail at fashions, and even in Hongkong, voices are heard in criticism, and rebuke. But it avails nothing. Even Brigham Young, the Mormon found it impossible to do anything in the matter in his day. The following is taken from his "life," one of many striking paragraphs in the book:—

In the effort to standardize the dress of the Mormon women and to prevent the extremes which he dwelt upon so often, of a dress which was so short that it revealed tops of the stockings, Brigham Young designed a costume for the Mormon women, which consisted of a modest sunbonnet and a simple cape, but only a few of them wore it for a short time and he was compelled until the last years of his life to continue his propaganda against the extravagant absurdities of fashion. He had been successful in dictating to his people on almost every subject, but this was one on which he was destined to fail, because of the force of personality arrayed against him.

A force against which all men are destined to fail, always. It is one of the rare facts of life and we recognize it not alone through intuition.

Here is another extract from a book bearing on the subject, which should interest Hongkong. It is the sister of Louis XIV., writing on June 16, 1716, to Caroline, Princess of Wales:—

The late King once said: "I confess that I feel rather annoyed when I perceive that with all my royal authority as King of this country, I have cried out against head-dresses being too high, and no one had sufficient regard for me to make them lower. Then an unknown woman, a baggage from England, comes along wearing a low head-dress, and immediately all the princesses rush from one extreme to the other."

The "baggage" was Lady Sandwich, wife of the English Ambassador, and, of course, she proved only one thing, and that is, the only way to change fashions is to change them. But how to do it remains with the gods.

There is nothing

BROADCASTING: new under the sun. Solomon reminds us. This is true of Broadcasting of which we hear next to nothing in Hongkong. A curious anticipation of broadcasting is found in the opening paragraph of George MacDonald's "Seaboard Parish." This book, a sequel to "Annals of a Quiet Neighbourhood," purports to be written by a country vicar who thus announces his intention of continuing his story.

"I am seated," he says, "once again at my writing-table to write to you—with a strange feeling, however, that I am in the heart of some curious, rather awful acoustic contrivance by means of which the words which

I have a habit of whispering over to myself as I write them are heard aloud by multitudes of people whom I cannot see or hear."

"Seaboard Parish" was first published in 1868!

The shortest THE SHORTEST, summing up in a court of law that we know of, took place some years ago at Liverpool. The presiding judge after listening to the arguments pro and con in an action for damages, turned to the jury and said: "How Much?" That reminds us that there is a record—or it should be—held for the shortest poem—and it seems to be held by Shelley. It seems that when Shelley was at Oxford, his literary class was assigned to write a poem on the first miracle of Christ, the changing of the water into wine at the marriage of Cana (John II., 1-11). Shelley was the last of the class to submit his poem, and then he only wrote one line. It was:—

The conscious water saw its God and blushed.

A beautiful one, surely!

A PICTURE. The lady from Hongkong complained at breakfast that her steward had forgotten to close her port window last night. "I had to get up and shut it myself. Quite suddenly the wind was terrible. And do you know my window was open. I might have got an awful chill. So careless. Now, on the P. & O. . . . She had travelled widely, the lady from Hongkong, by all the principal lines, and she would never travel by this one any more, don't you know. Didn't the bacon taste the little bit queer? Did he think there was any advantage to be got out of the French exchange? If so, she would leave the ship at Marseilles and stay in the Riviera. Steward, some more bacon—well done! "Somebody told me," she went on, "that the ship lurched, frightfully once last night. I always said it would, if ever it met really bad weather." Is this a true picture? It occurs in a recent book by H. M. Tomlinson. We seem to have met the type.

One of the EUGENE CHEN, stormy petrels of Chinese politics—and particularly of Cantonese politics, is undoubtedly Eugene Chen, whose arrest has been announced. He was peculiarly attached to the late Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and unquestionably had a lot to do with that gentleman's career. The writer remembers seeing Chen in the Hongkong Hotel with a view to an interview with Sun. It was at the time when Sun had threatened to seize the Customs and divert money to his own cause. Chen was in Hongkong on "diplomatic" business and gave the impression that what he did not know about the art of diplomacy was not worth knowing. Eugene is one of a number of Chinese able to write and speak English probably better than Chinese. He wields a particularly vitriolic pen.

THE RIGHT TO KILL.

Some time ago, it may be remembered, a young actress in Paris was asked by her lover, who lay suffering from an incurable disease, to put an end to his life. observes a Home paper. She killed him with a revolver, and a Parisian jury found her innocent of any crime. Now a young dressmaker has killed a sister who was hopelessly ill, and the Paris Courts have passed on her a sentence of two years' imprisonment. It seems to be agreed in Paris that the circumstances of the two cases are similar, except for the difference between killing a lover and killing a sister, between being a pretty actress and being a poor dressmaker. Without cynicism we may suspect that this accounts for the difference in the fate of the two ladies. But another theory is being put forward in Paris. The dressmaker was punished, after the actress, had been declared innocent, we are told, because the jury felt that a second verdict admitting the "right to kill" might have given that principle legal sanction. This, as representing the nation, they pronounced the nation was not prepared for. The lucid and logical French mind must be well able to see the disturbing consequences of admitting "the right to kill" in any circumstances. Yet it is being contended in Paris that the condemnation

of the dressmaker "shows that the time has come when the right to kill in cases of incurable disease of a painful character should be recognised by the penal code." No one who has observed in such cases the distress of the patient and of those nearly related will speak without compassion of any wild act of theirs. But pity for suffering and for the aberrations which suffering may cause should not persuade us to sanction any such desperate sophism as the concession of a "right to kill." That is a responsibility far too heavy to be trusted to the hands of any person. There are cases in which, according to human foresight, a swift death is the best we can wish the sufferer. But no one considering with disinterested calm the possibility of being responsible for the acts of such a case could endure the thought of possessing a "right to kill." Do what we will, we shall not abolish all the stress and difficulty of life. It is entirely much that, in these days, the resources of medicine can quell the dull pain even of those for whom there is no cure. To admit the principle of killing those whose plight was too miserable for themselves or their friends to bear would be a degrading and disastrous weakening of that respect for human life upon which the safety and welfare of mankind depend.

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"KATLAWA"	10,048	8th Sept.	Kobe
"KARUTIRA"	10,000	18th Sept.	Moji Kobe and Yokohama
"MALWA"	9,941	18th Sept.	Shanghai and Kobe
"RUTU AN"	8,691	19th Sept.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe.
"TALAMBA"	8,08	21st Sept.	Kobe
"KHIVA"	9,190	2nd Oct.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe.
"SICILIA"	6,12	2nd Oct.	Shanghai and Kobe
"KORUMANG"	4,480	10th Oct.	Moji, Kobe and Yokohama
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"MOREA"	17,91	14th Nov.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe.
"KASHMIR"	8,85	14th Nov.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe.
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"MALWA"	10,941	8th Jan.	Shanghai, Moji and Kobe.
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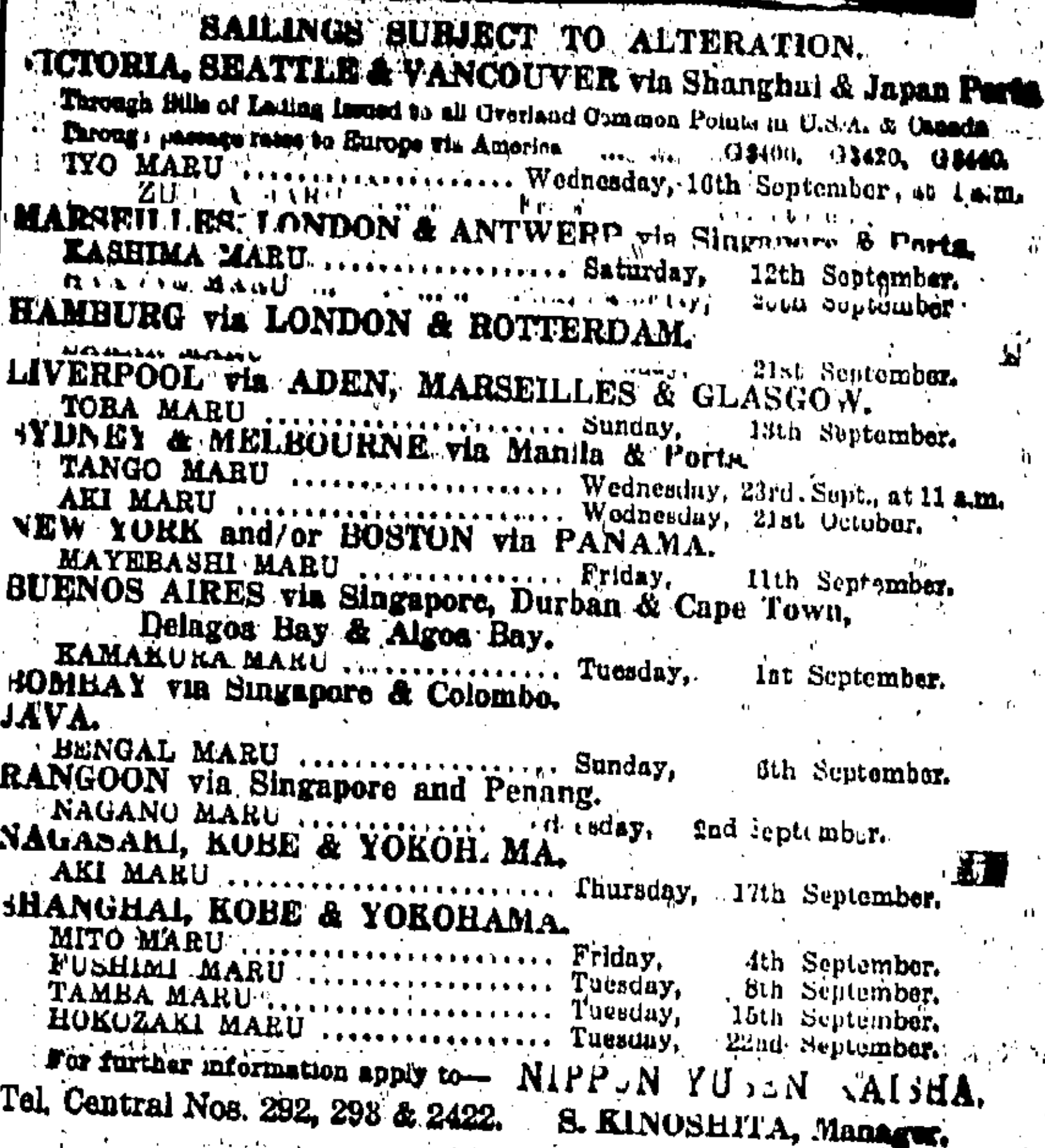
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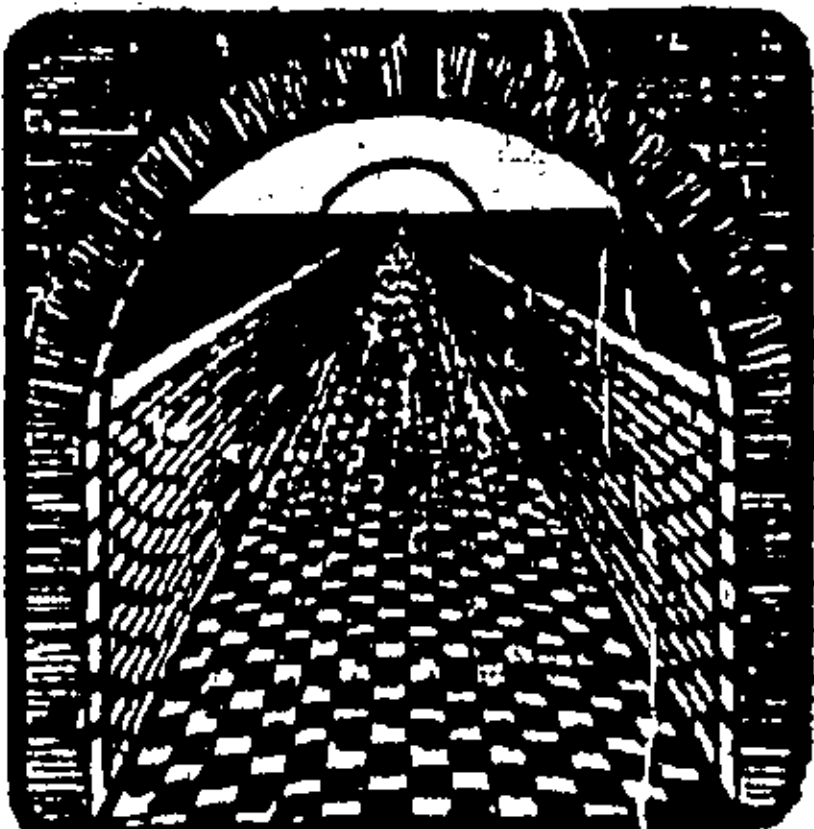
The former Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. William McAdoo, arrived in Santa Barbara from Los Angeles to lend a hand in the work of relief and reconstruction. He experienced a great thrill in viewing the devastated city, he said.



Herbert C. Hoover, Jr., son of America's Secretary of Commerce, will shortly marry Miss Margaret Watson.

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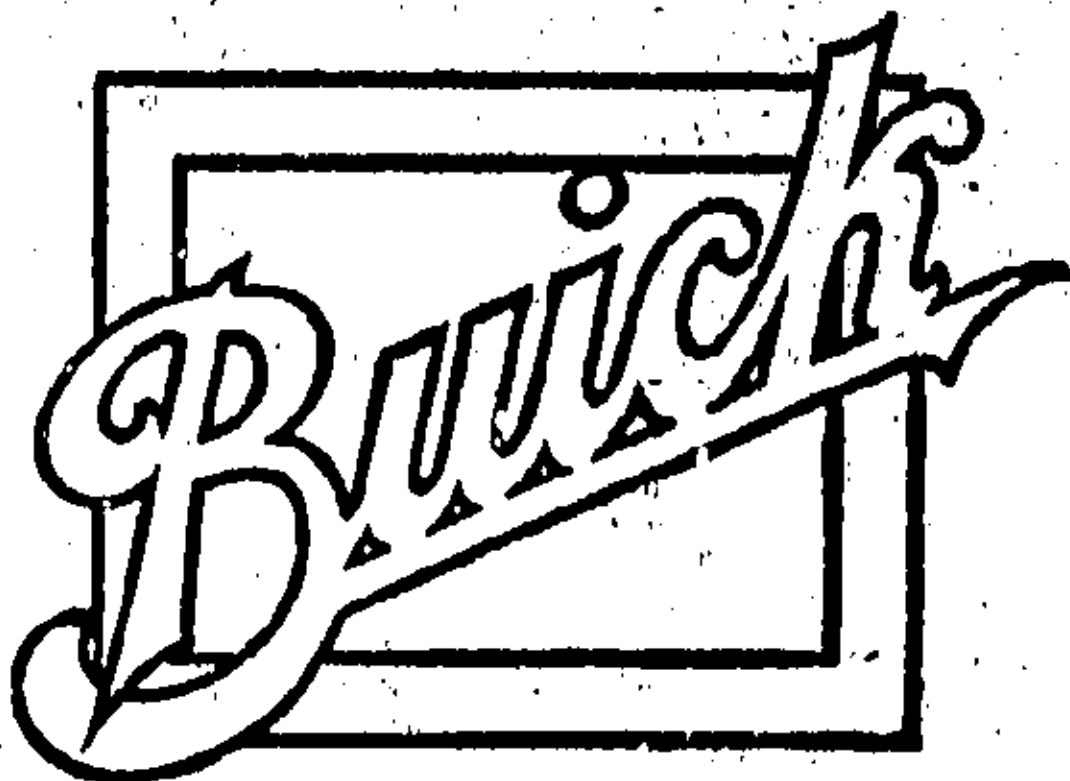
John D. Rockefeller, Sr., and Jr., with a third generation member of the family, Winthrop Rockefeller, attended the Park Avenue Baptist Church, New York, known as the "Rockefeller Church" to hear the first sermon there of Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, famous modernist pastor-elect, who demanded and obtained change of rites before accepting the call. The aged oil magnate gave away ten new shoes to children at church.



Lord Beaverbrook declared France is fully able to pay her debts and she must pay Britain before paying the United States. Congressman Theodore Burton, Chairman of the American delegation, offered a resolution against poison gas which was adopted unanimously by the Geneva Arms Control Conference. Wilhelm von Hakenstein, once the Kaiser of Germany, has assembled at his Dornum house a number of scientists to study ancient Greek and Oriental weapons. President von Hindenburg believes it will not be hard for Germany to meet the disarmament demands of the Allied powers.

BRINGING UP FATHER





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REPLACING FOREIGNERS.

PROBLEM FOR ENGLISH
HOTELS.

Several of the great London hotels and restaurants have been hard hit by the Home Secretary's rigorous action against Continental aliens, writes Arnold Quest in the Weekly Dispatch. Quite a number of them had their staffs sensibly depleted by the new Orders. Waiters have had to go back to their country of origin; and not waiters alone. Highly placed and important officials, managers, superintendents, maîtres d'hôtel, and others have also been dispersed with; and the direct consequences are lamenting or trying to fill the posts with native-born substitutes.

It is not an easy task, for the fashionable hotel industry in England, and particularly in the metropolis, has been largely in the hands of foreigners. When you sit down at your table in a West-end establishment you quite expect your order to be taken by a gentleman who talks fluent English with an accent.

ENGLISHMEN RARELY FOUND.
The Englishman in this capacity is so rare that you are rather surprised when you encounter him. Nine times out of ten the person who ministers to your wants comes from somewhere beyond the Channel.

It has been so in London and other large towns as long as I can remember. Before the war the hotel waiter was usually a German or German-Swiss. I believe there was a prevalent idea that these nationals had a special aptitude for the business. They were supposed to work better in this line than other people, and they also worked rather more cheaply. Besides, they were linguists.

Consequently they were much in request and were to be found in all sorts of places, including some where their presence was not quite easy to explain. It was hinted, even before the autumn of 1914, that they had other interests besides those which were professional. Our Secret Service discovered that certain foreign hotel employees were in communication with the German War Staff.

MIXED RIVALRY.
The Tontou is less in evidence now than he used to be. His place has been taken not by Britons for the most part, but by Italians, Belgians, French, Swiss, Dutch, and diverse others. I have my hunch regularly brought to me at one agreeable resort by a very civil young Czech-Slovak; and I have been served by a Portuguese, a Rumanian, a Norwegian, and a Jingo-Slav.

This as regards the rank-and-file. Managers, head-waiters, and maîtres d'hôtel seem to be mostly French, French-Swiss, or Italians, with an occasional Swede. The Englishman is scarce.

What are the reasons for the exclusion of our own countrymen from a large, important, and on the whole fairly lucrative avocation? Why should we not have British waiters and British managers? Is not the Englishman capable of discharging properly the duties of these functionaries?

He can do them very well when the chance is given him. There are chophouses and restaurants, mostly in the City, where none but English are employed; and I do not think their clients would care to have Fritz or Adolphe or Antonio in exchange for William and Richard, always so civil and obliging and kindly, so anxious to bring the guest the precise steak and floury potato for which he

VERSATILITY.
Some of the clubs will have no aliens, and who can want a better servant than the polite, attentive, club waiter, who knows every member's name and anticipates his wants? And then there is the old-fashioned English butler, still to be found in private families, so dignified, respectful, and quietly efficient, the guide, confidant, and adviser of the entire household. As for the English waitress—but that is another story; for the alien female has not yet invaded her domain.



SIR KADOUR BEN-GHALEB
His Excellency Sir Kadour Ben-Ghaleb, named new Minister Plenipotentiary from Morocco, to France, hoped to exert influence to bring about cessation of hostilities between Brits and French.

many countries and at least three or four of the leading European tongues pass current in the lounge and restaurant. The English waiter too often knows only English and cannot take an order given in French, German, or Italian like his versatile rival. The alien, too, frequently knows more of other useful and desirable things. If he is the kind of waiter who intends to become in due course one of the thousand-a-year managers, he will have been rather elaborately trained.

TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS.
There is my friend Monsieur—shall I call him Auguste?—who is, unless he has been "disported," maître d'hôtel in a certain London restaurant which all the world enters at one time or another.

A most agreeable and accomplished gentleman is Auguste, with the manners of a rather unusually finished diplomat, who can converse with ease and elegance in several languages and is at home with "ambassadors' countesses, American millionaires, and young fellows about town."

If we had the same class of young Englishman in the business, and if he would submit himself to the same training, we should not need Auguste. Some, I think, are beginning to come into it. The F.C.C. has instituted training classes for waiters, and there are places waiting for the pupils if they will take the trouble to qualify themselves.

Travelling scholarships for waiters and caterers would also be quite as useful as some educational endowments.

SEANCE-LIBEL SUIT.

MEDIUM SUEBS GERMAN
PROFESSOR.

A decision of vital interest to the large body of educated occultists in Germany was given on July 11, by one of the Berlin courts.

At a seance, assisted at by a number of doctors and other men of learning, the medium, Frau Rudolf, wife of an official in the Postal Ministry, and a distinguished amateur of her craft, was linked up with the rest of the company by the firm contact of hands on a polished table; but when the lights were turned up again, her arms, previously without ornament, were encircled by two massive iron rings, which she declared must have been "deposited in atoms" through "spirit action." All the savants and "sanitary" councillors present at the conjuration seem to have been quite satisfied with this authenticity of the "materialisation," and it was duly recorded and published in a formal protocol. This document, however, met with an exceedingly contemptuous reception from Professor Albert Moil, whose researches into pathological psychology have placed him to great demand as a forensic expert. In the last of a long series of books on the operation of the human mind he has decided the idea that Frau Rudolf's rings were the fruit of psychic preoccupation, and ungallantly suggested that she had entered the seance with them concealed beneath her clothes. His criticism included such harsh expressions as "manipulations" and "clumsy tricks." For the first time in the history of German jurisprudence the medium thus attacked has resorted with libel proceedings.

The hearing, which lasted a whole week, was of a very lively character, as the court was crowded daily by fervent believers in spiritualistic manifestations, who met hostile reflections on their faith with outbursts of indignation. An offer by the medium to demonstrate her occult power before the Bench came to nothing, because the defendant insisted that the seances should take place in broad daylight and that he should be permitted to attend it. Professor Paul Degner, of Berlin University, deposed that at one of Frau Rudolf's seances a large chopping-block, which she certainly could not have hidden in her clothing, suddenly appeared on the table. Professor Moil, for his part, wanted to call slight-of-hand experts, who, he said, would deceive the judges by producing, apparently from the air, iron rings and other objects of unimpeachable bulk and solidity. He disclaimed any particular animus against the medium, and justified his attack with the argument that the growing strength of occultism in Germany had become a serious national danger. Thus he sought to prove that Count von Moltke's preoccupation with spiritualistic phenomena had been responsible for Germany's loss of the Battle of the Marne. He also declared that the ex-Kaiser during his reign fell under the malignant influence of occultists, who prevented him from filling the chief posts of the State with men competent to administer them. In its judgment, the Bench found that the medium was absolutely trustworthy; that no deception or fraud had been proved against her; and that she therefore left the court without stain on her character. Professor Moil had failed to justify his statements, which consequently constituted a calumny. As, however, his criticism was inspired by zeal for scientific truth, he was given the benefit of the clause of the criminal code exempting from penalties for libel statements made "in defence of justified interests" and was accordingly acquitted.

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